BASF
The Chemical Company

Senate Energy & Technology Committee
Testimony Senate Bill No. 314
Senate Hearing Room, Ground Floor, Boji Tower
124 W. Allegan Street, Lansing, MI 48933
November 5, 2013

Chairman Nofs and members of the Committee;

Thank you for the opportunity to present testimony in opposition to Senate Bill (SB) No. 314 on behalf of BASF Corporation. My name is Christopher Bradlee, and I am the Market Development Manager, North America, for BASF Corporation's Biodegradable Polymers business. BASF – The Chemical Company has a strong presence in Michigan. We have facilities in Wyandotte, Livonia, Southfield, Mattawan, Lincoln Park, Wixom, Rochester Hills and Troy. All total, BASF employs more than 1,400 people in the State of Michigan.

BASF stands in opposition to SB 314 on the basis that the current ban on yard clippings to Michigan's landfills is the best management practice and will result in the best economic, environmental and social returns to the State.

Landfills do not need yard clippings in order to generate gas. There already is sufficient amounts of landfill gas produced from food, paper, paperboard and other organic material currently going to landfills; so why pass a law that could effectively shut down the compost industry in the State when landfills already receive enough organics to make landfill gas. Further to this point, the economic value creation from composting of yard clippings far exceeds that from landfill gas. In 2010 BASF performed a life-cycle economic assessment and determined the value of organic material going into composting versus landfill with gas capture. Under the conditions of this study the results found that the economic value of organics to composting is about $33.00 dollars per ton, compared to $2.00 dollars per ton for organics to landfills with gas collection. The results of this study have been third-party verified by NSF International, Ann Arbor, Michigan, and are available on their website. The significantly lower economic return makes the point that organics to energy makes sense in systems designed specifically for this purpose, but not in landfills where the decay, capture and conversion are not optimal. It is questionable whether landfill gas is green energy or green washing.

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